

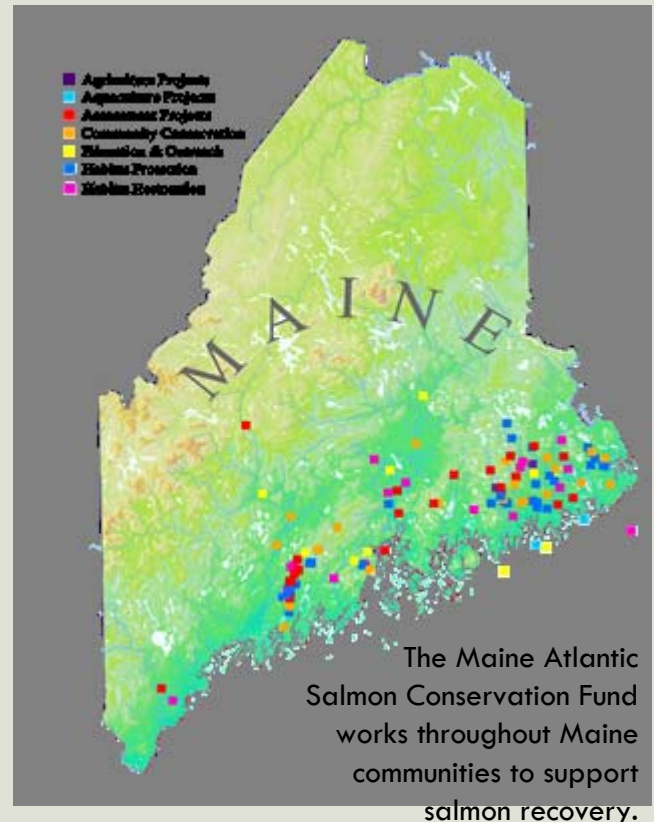
MAINE ATLANTIC SALMON CONSERVATION FUND



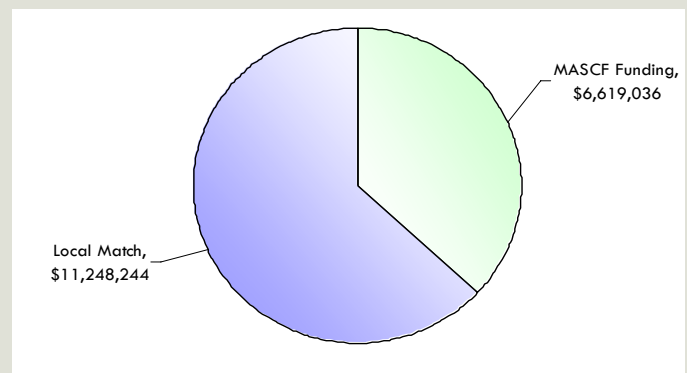
The Maine Atlantic Salmon Conservation Fund (MASCF) provides assistance to private landowners and conservation groups working to restore Atlantic salmon. The program also assists agriculture and aquaculture industries to develop practices that minimize impacts to wild salmon. Created through the support of Maine's congressional delegation, the program has been annually renewed since October 2000.

MASCF supports projects which restore access to historic habitat, remove threats from degraded habitat, look for opportunities to inexpensively secure long-term habitat protection, and support agriculture and aquaculture industries to develop in an environmentally sustainable manner. The program is instrumental in catalyzing conservation activities by encouraging partnerships and providing seed money to on-the-ground projects.

The Maine Atlantic Salmon Conservation Fund partners include the Maine Atlantic Salmon Commission, Land for Maine's Future Board, NOAA-Fisheries, the Atlantic Salmon Federation, and numerous land trusts, watershed councils, private landowners and angling groups working to protect Maine's remaining wild Atlantic salmon.



Since 2000, MASCF has provided support to over 100 Atlantic salmon recovery projects. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Endangered Species Recovery Program appropriations, provided through NFWF, have been matched almost 2:1 with local contributions.



MAINE ATLANTIC SALMON CONSERVATION FUND

A PROGRAM OF THE NATIONAL FISH AND WILDLIFE FOUNDATION AND U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

A broad range of activities are eligible for funding through MASCF, including in-stream and riverine restoration, habitat protection, watershed management and organizational capacity building, water quality enhancement and monitoring, projects that remove direct threats to wild salmon and their habitat (e.g., from agriculture or aquaculture practices), and applied research to enhance salmon conservation efforts.

For information on the Maine Atlantic Salmon Conservation Fund please visit:

www.nfwf.org/atlantic_salmon.htm



Habitat Protection



MASCF has targeted habitat protection as a key element of salmon recovery. In just four years the program has provided funding to protect over 54,000 acres of riparian habitat. Partners in this effort include land trusts, agencies and private industry.

Habitat Restoration



The program has funded removing two small dams and opened access to over 25 miles of historic habitat to Atlantic salmon. Other program areas include reducing NPS pollution and supporting efforts to reconfigure hydropower on the Penobscot River that would open up over 500 miles of habitat.

Assessments



Atlantic salmon face a wide variety of threats. MASCF is providing funding to assess water chemistry, examine impacts of road salting, more fully understand smolt migration and to examine the role of large woody debris in providing higher quality habitat.

Aquaculture



The Fund is supporting projects that design and test aquaculture containment verification system. In 2004, the Maine Aquaculture Association received support to provide training to workers on Atlantic salmon conservation and best management practices.

Agriculture



Funding has been provided to help industrial and small private blueberry growers develop long-term plans to conserve and manage water use in order to minimize impacts on Atlantic salmon. The program has assisted 15 farms with drafting Whole Farm Water Use Management Plans.

Education/Capacity



Educators are raising community awareness by delivering information to school children, teachers, and the public concerning the habitat needs, biology and conservation of Atlantic salmon. Funding is also being provided for watershed coordinators and habitat protection specialists.